



Voting Methodologies

Ranked Choice, Approval, and STAR

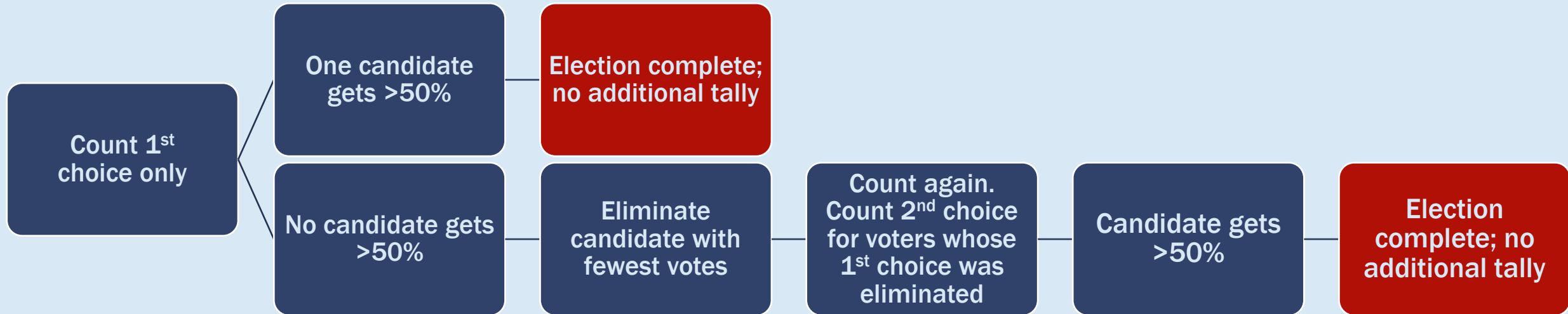
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH AND GENERAL COUNSEL

Political Subdivisions Interim Committee

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Ranked Choice Voting

Voters rank all candidates in order of preference





Usage of Ranked Choice

- **23 municipalities in Utah participating in pilot**
 - Vineyard and Payson conducted the first elections using ranked choice voting in 2019.
 - The Office of the Lieutenant Governor maintains an updated list at <https://voteinfo.utah.gov/current-election-information/>.
- **Maine uses ranked choice voting in statewide elections; Alaska will begin in 2022.**



Approval Voting

Vote

- Voters select all candidates they approve without ranking the candidates.
- Total votes exceed total number of voters.

Tally

- Candidate with the most votes wins.
- No $>50\%$ requirement

Usage of Approval Voting

- **Fargo, North Dakota**
 - City Commission elections
 - First used in June 2020
- **St. Louis, Missouri**
 - Municipal elections
 - First used in March 2021





STAR Voting

Voters rate (not rank) each candidate on a five-point scale.

Example from starvoting.us



To date, has not been used in any municipal or statewide elections

Ballots are counted in a two-step process:

Scoring

The two highest scoring candidates are finalists.

Candidates:	Totals:
Carmen	624,057
Ben	509,742
DeAndre	387,143
Abby	37,708
Eric	2,789

Carmen and Ben advance to the Automatic Runoff.

Runoff

Your vote goes to the finalist you prefer.

Candidates:	Worst	0	1	2	3	4	Best	5
Abby	0	1	2	3	4	5		
Ben	0	1	2	3	4	5		
Carmen	0	1	2	3	4	5		
DeAndre	0	1	2	3	4	5		
Eric	0	1	2	3	4	5		

This vote goes to Carmen because she was scored higher than Ben.



H.B. 174: Municipal Instant Runoff Voting Amendments

- **Expansion of municipal alternate voting methods pilot project**

Add approval voting and STAR voting methods as options for municipalities

- **First substitute removed STAR voting**

STAR voting would require changes to voting equipment; approval voting does not require changes to voting equipment or ballots.

- **Committee suggested further study during interim**